



Preventing Identity Theft

With the new year upon us now is the time to start looking at ways to protect your identity. Here are a few tips to consider to keep your identity secure:

- Consider purchasing a mailbox with lock.
- Use the letter slots inside your Post Office for your mail, or hand it to a letter carrier.
- If expecting checks or credit cards, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.
- If you change your address, immediately notify your Post Office and anyone with whom you do business via the mail.
- If you receive a cold call from a banking institution asking for your private information, ask for their return call back number and verify with corporate phone number it is a legitimate call.
- Be careful when using outdoor credit card readers, and don't use readers that appear to have been tampered with or have broken security tape.
- Order a free credit report annually through www.annualcreditreport.com.



If you have been the victim of fraud call the Sheriff's Department at 909.595.2264 to file a report, and visit the Federal Trade Commission's [website](http://www.ftc.gov) to for additional information as well as how to place a fraud alert on your account with the three credit reporting companies.

Ordering a Free Credit Report

You may order your free credit report once a year from each of the credit reporting companies. The Federal Trade Commission's [website](http://www.ftc.gov) can guide you through the ordering process. To order, visit www.annualcreditreport.com, call 1-877-322-8228, or complete the Annual Credit Report Request Form and mail it to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.



Join Neighborhood Watch

Joining Neighborhood Watch is an excellent way for you, your neighbors, and the Sheriff's Department to work together to reduce crime and promote safety. If you are interested in starting a group, or finding a group in your neighborhood, contact Community Relations Deputy Scheller at 909.839.7079 or at ascheller@diamondbarca.gov.

Once you are part of a Neighborhood Watch Group, be sure to meet on a regular basis and share information with your group such as email blasts from Deputy Scheller and the monthly Neighborhood Watch Newsletters available on the City website at www.diamondbarca.gov.

